

62 4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes an opening adapted to allow passage of each said noise producing component into the interior of the flexible enclosure.

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5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the opening is sealable by adhesive tape.

6. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure includes one or more apertures to allow breathable gas into and out of each said noise producing component.

63 7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the noise producing components include a blower, an inlet muffler and an outlet muffler, atmospheric air being drawn through the inlet muffler before entering the blower and the resulting ~~pressurised~~ pressurized air passing through the outlet muffler after leaving the blower, and the enclosure includes a first said aperture substantially sealable with respect to the exterior of the inlet of the inlet muffler and a second said aperture substantially sealable with respect to the exterior of the outlet of the outlet muffler.

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8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the enclosure includes a third said aperture for passage of one or more wires for transmitting power or control signals to an electric motor and/or other electrical components, the third aperture being substantially sealable relative to the exterior of the wire(s).

9. (Previously Amended) A method of assembling the apparatus claimed in claim 1, the method comprising:  
providing the at least one noise producing component in a sub-assembly;  
placing the sub-assembly into the interior of the flexible enclosure through an opening therein;  
substantially sealing the opening; and  
placing the flexible enclosure within the external housing.

BY 10. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible enclosure is produced from plastic material designed to dampen noise from said at least one noise producing component.